

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action of July 10, 2007. In that Office Action, the examiner stated that the amendment filed on 03/07/07 [*sic*; the undersigned attorney's file shows that an amendment was actually filed on 03/14/07] was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action for two reasons: (1) the newly submitted abstract of the disclosure did not commence on a separate sheet, and (2) claims 1–31 were submitted with the substitute specification in that paper without claim identifiers and claims 1–45 were cancelled in the “Listing of Claims”, while claims 46–68 and 93–117 were indicated as presently pending.

The examiner indicated that it was unclear what claims are pending in the application after the previous submission of a substitute specification and claim numbers. Applicants were requested to resubmit a substitute specification and corrected claims with claim identifiers and an abstract in compliance with present amendment practice.

The examiner's prior indication of allowable subject matter in claims 46–68 and 93–117 is again noted with appreciation.

In response to the Office Action, the Applicants submit the following herewith:

1. A Second Substitute specification, in two parts as required by 37 CFR 1.121(b)(3) and 1.125(b) and (c):

(a) a “clean version” without any markings as specified in 37 CFR 1.125(c), excluding the claims as specified in 37 CFR 1.125(b); and

(b) a version “marked to show changes” showing all changes relative to the immediately prior version (i.e. to the originally filed application, as this is a required resubmission) as specified in 37 CFR 1.125(c).

2. A new Abstract of the Disclosure, starting on a new page in the second substitute specification as required by the examiner and as arguably required under 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). It is noted that the amendment to the Abstract is made in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(2) as a replacement section. It is not believed that this rule requires that the Abstract in an amendment

to the specification necessarily start on a new page, but the amendment instruction above is made to start on a new page notwithstanding.

The examiner requested that the applicants resubmit a substitute specification and corrected claims with claim identifiers. (Office Action, page 2, first paragraph.) Resubmission of the amendment claims, beyond that in the “Amendment and Response to Second Office Action in RCE” filed on March 14, 2007 (hereinafter “Prior Amendment”) is not believed necessary or required and therefore traversed.

For the record, the claims pending in the case are as reflected in the Prior Amendment, as no further changes have been made or believed necessary. Indeed, resubmitting such claims when no further changes have been made would be inconsistent with 37 CFR 1.121(c), which requires a complete claim listing arguably only if there is a change to an existing claim. No such changes have been made in the present document.

Thus, and as reflected in the Prior Amendment, and hereby confirmed, claims 46–190 are pending in the application, with claims 1–45 having been cancelled, claims 46–68 and 93–117 having been elected for prosecution (with traverse), and claims 69–92 and 118–190 being withdrawn as directed to nonelected subject matter. The status of all claims should be clear from this statement.

* * * * *

Request Regarding Power of Attorney and Association with Customer Number

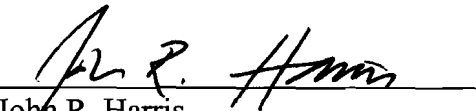
It is further requested that this application be associated with the customer number (24728), as previously requested in the accompanying Power of Attorney, which was acknowledged in the Notice Regarding Power of Attorney dated January 8, 2001. The undersigned does not have PAIR access to this case, despite having previously submitted an appropriate power of attorney.

* * * * *

This amendment is believed to have corrected all remaining deficiencies so that a Notice of Allowance can be promptly issued. It is believed that that independent claims 46 and 93, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, have utility, remain novel and non-obvious in view of the references, and should be allowable. The foregoing is presented as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed July 10, 2007, and is believed to have placed all claims and the specification in condition for allowance. Such action is courteously solicited. If any issues remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 404-233-7000.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS, MANNING & MARTIN, LLP



John R. Harris
Attorneys for Applicants
Reg. No. 30,388

August 10, 2007

MORRIS, MANNING & MARTIN, LLP
3343 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1044
Telephone: 404 233 7000
Docket No. 4960-29720
Customer No. 24728